

Lingnan University
Department of Sociology & Social Policy

- Course Title : Social Welfare and Social Problems in Hong Kong
- Course Code : SOC327
- Recommended Study Year : All year
- No. of credits/semester : 3
- Mode of Tuition : Lecture, Tutorial and Service Learning
- Class Contact Hours : 3 hours a week
- Category of Major Prog. : Elective
- Discipline: : Sociology
- Prerequisite: : Nil
- Co-requisite: : Nil
- Aims : This course provides students with conceptual tools to understand and analyze social problems and social welfare policies in a cross-national perspective. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to critically assess problems, values and institutions underpinning social welfare and social security policies, to understand the determinants of such policies in a cross national perspective, and to understand the important social welfare policy models and paradigms. They will be equipped to apply these analytical principles to contemporary social welfare and social security in Hong Kong.
- Learning Outcomes : Students will learn from this course relevant theories of social welfare and mainstream perspectives on social problems. The course will also equip students with an understanding in issues of welfare policy and how social problems can be tackled by the state. Noting the importance of social securities in welfare, issues relating to social security systems, unemployment, and retirement benefits will be discussed in details; hence students will be given an overall understanding on these issues. Cross comparison of these issues with other countries will also broaden students' perspective on the subject.
- Indicative Content : I. Introduction: welfare as a means to resolve social problems
- II. Relating social welfare to global changes
- a) Socio-Economic Structure, Human Needs, and the need for social welfare and Social security
 - b) What is social welfare: broad definitions
 - c) Scope of social welfare: health, personal services,

- education/training, housing, anti-corruption etc.
- d) Theories of social welfare in dealing with social problems: institutional Vs remedial; universal Vs selective; market Vs plan economy
- e) Historical background: from nil to quasi-socialist to shared responsibility
- f) Social welfare and social security policies in Hong Kong: priorities now

III. Selected welfare issues in developed countries and in Hong Kong

- a) Changing needs in welfare: driven by population, urbanization and technological development, political awareness, dominant ideologies and government policies
 - Health and social care for the needy: disabled, chronically ill and the frail elderly education and training
 - Housing
 - Environment and accessibility (transport)
 - Law and order: crime prevention, anti-corruption, protection and rehabilitation
 - Political representation of disadvantaged groups: disabled, women, ethnic minorities and older persons

IV. The future of social welfare: shared care for life quality

- a) Shifting responsibilities - the end of the welfare state, the rise of shared responsibilities
- b) Balancing technology and moral concerns: technology & human divide (cross-generations), human reproductive technology & ethical concerns
- c) Preparing for challenges of an ageing world

Teaching Method : Weekly lectures, tutorials or seminar presentation/ discussions

Measurement of Learning Outcomes : Learning outcomes will be assessed by tests, term paper, tutorial presentation and participation (for tutorial mode only), service learning performance (for Service-Learning mode only) and examination.

Assessment : Tutorial Mode

- (i) *Continuous assessment* (50%):
 - a. Tutorial presentation (small groups of 3-4 students) (15%)
 - b. Lecture and tutorial attendance (10%)
 - c. Individual written term paper/ essay. No more than 3,000 words are expected for the paper (25%)

- (ii) *Examination (50%)*:
- a. Examination (50%) containing essay type questions (2 hours)

Service-Learning Mode

- (iii) *Continuous assessment (50%)*:
- a. Individual reflective essay (15 %)
 - b. Group report (15 %)
 - c. Report - back seminar presentation (10%)
 - d. Performance Ratings/ Agency evaluation score (10%)
- (iv) *Examination (50%)*:
- a. Examination (50%) containing essay type questions (2 hours)

**FINAL DATE FOR ESSAY SUBMISSION:
5 December 2008, Friday**

Requirement for your term paper/essay: *Please note that the essay will be assessed on the basis of its overall quality, but it should include:*

- a) A concise statement about the issues/topic and why it is important in the study of social welfare and social problems.
- b) References to appropriate concepts/theories
- c) Empirical examples from HK, other Asian countries or internationally, as appropriate.
- d) A Bibliography/List of References of **all** sources consulted and of all works/authors mentioned in the text. This is essential. Without such a list of reference (in proper academic style), the essay will be reduced by at least one grade. The reference list may be in numerical style *or* Harvard style (alphabetic list of authors' names and date of publication cited in text), e.g. Wong (1998); Smith (1996)

EXAM DATE: 4 December 2008 (NAB319)

Essential Readings : Ambrosino, Rosalie, Joseph Herrernan, Guy Shuttlesworth and Robert Ambrosino. Social work and social welfare: an introduction (5th ed.). Calif.: Brooks/Cole-Thomson Learning, 2005.

Blau, Joel. The dynamics of social welfare policy. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Carroll L. Estes, Simon Biggs and Chris Phillipson. Social theory, social policy and ageing: a critical introduction. Maidenhead, England: Open University Press, 2003.

Dobelstein, Andrew W. Social welfare: policy and analysis. [Pacific Grove, Calif.]: Brooks/Cole--Thomson Learning, 2003.

Dolgoft, Ralph. Understanding social welfare: a search for social justice. Boston: Pearson/Allyn and Bacon, 2007.

Gilbert, Neil. Dimensions of social welfare policy. Boston: Pearson Allyn and Bacon, 2005.

Fenge, Robert. Social security and early retirement. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2005.

Jochen, Clasen (ed.). What future for social security? :debates and reforms in national and cross-national perspective. Bristol: The Policy Press, 2002.

Jordan, Bill. Social policy for the twenty-first century: new perspectives, big issues. Cambridge, UK ; Malden, MA : Polity, 2006.

Lavalette, Michael and Alan Pratt (eds.). Social policy: theories, concepts and issues. London; Thousand Oaks, Calif.: SAGE, 2006.

Marshall, Katherine and Olivier Butzbach (eds.). New social policy agendas for Europe and Asia: challenges, experiences, and lessons. Washington, DC: World Bank, 2003.

Roland Sigg and Christina Behrendt (eds.). Social security in the global village. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 2002.

Shek, Daniel, T. L., Mong Chow Lam, Chor Fai Au and J. J. Lee (eds.). Advances in social welfare in Hong Kong. Hong Kong: Chinese University Press, 2002.

Zastrow, Charles. Introduction to social work and social welfare: empowering people. Calif.: Brooks/Cole-Thomson Learning, c2004.

Current and previous Policy Addresses (back for 5 years) by the Chief Executive of Hong Kong. Especially parts on *Health, Welfare, Education and Housing*.

- Supplementary Readings : Bak, Hans, Frits van Holthoon and Hans Krabbendam (eds.), Social and secure?: Politics and Culture of the Welfare State: A Comparative Inquiry, Amsterdam: VU University Press, 1996.
- Bodie, Zvi, Olivia Mitchell, and John Turner (eds.), Securing Employer-based Pensions: An International Perspective, Philadelphia: Pension Research Council, Wharton School of the University: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1996.
- Day, Phyllis J., A New History of Social Welfare, 2nd ed., Boston, Mass.: Allyn and Bacon, 1997.
- Dixon, John and Robert Scheurell (eds.), Social Security Programs: A Cross-cultural Comparative Perspective, Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1995.
- Dolgoft,Ralph & Donald Feldstein, Understanding Social Welfare, Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 5th Edition, 2000.
- Drover, Glenn and Patrick Kerans (eds.), New Approaches to Welfare Theory, Aldershot, Hants, England, Brookfield, Vt.: E. Elgar, 1993.
- Eric, R. Kingson and James H. Schulz (eds.), Social Security in the 21st Century, New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- Gilbert, Neil & Terrell, Paul, Dimensions of social welfare policy. 6th Edition. Boston: Pearson Allyn and Bacon, 2005.
- Goodin, Robert E., Reasons for Welfare: The Political Theory of the Welfare State, Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1988.
- Gordon, Margaret S., Social Security Policies in Industrial Countries: A Comparative Analysis, Cambridge, [England], New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988.
- Johnson, Louise, Charles Schwartz and Donald Tate, Social Welfare: A Response to Human Need, Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1997.
- Lee, Jik-Joen, The Road to the Development of Social Welfare in Hong Kong: The Historical Key Issues, Hong Kong: Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 1996.
- Loney, Martin, David Boswell and John Clarke (eds.), Social Policy and Social Welfare: A Reader, Milton Keynes: Open University Press, 1983.

Midgley, James, Social Development: The Developmental Perspective in Social Welfare, London, Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage, 1995.

Midgley, James, Social Welfare in Global Context, Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications, 1997.

NBER series on Social Security and Retirement, Cambridge, Mass: National Bureau of Economic Research, 1997.

Oakley, Ann and Susan Williams (eds.), The Politics of the Welfare State, London, Bristol, Pa.: UCL Press, 1994.

Williamson, John B. *and* Fred C. Pampel, Old-age Security in Comparative Perspective, New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.